

Ent phy w/ Gary Chase
rec'd 9/13/78
[CLASS #18-913/A]

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE INQUIRY CONDUCTED

In April 1977, the Chairman and Vice Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, commenced a preliminary inquiry into allegations that representatives of the Republic of Korea had sought to influence improperly the United States Senate. Among other efforts, the Chairman and Vice Chairman sent letters to a substantial number of agencies in the Executive Branch, to relevant committees of the House of Representatives, and to certain others not in government, requesting them to supply this Committee with any information they had implicating any present Member, officer, or employee of the Senate in improper activities involving agents of the Republic of Korea. In most instances, the Chairman and Vice Chairman received written responses. In several cases, meetings followed, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman examined records in the possession of the House Select Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and various intelligence agencies. In August, the Committee sought and obtained access to a particular grand jury document which has now been made public.^{1/}

After examining this material, the Committee authorized the Chairman and Vice Chairman to commence a search for a lawyer who could act as Special Counsel to conduct a thorough investigation. On September 19, 1977, the Committee retained Victor H. Kramer as Special Counsel and charged him with the duty of conducting an expanded inquiry to determine whether representatives of the Republic of Korea had improperly influenced any Member of the Senate or its employees. Special Counsel was also charged with making any recommendations for Committee or Senate action warranted by the results of his inquiry.

^{1/} Ex. 20.